

Remarks

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated **February 6, 2008**, wherein the Office rejected claims 1 – 4, 6 – 15, 30, and 33 – 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, and the Office stated that claims 41, 42, 44, and 45 contain allowable subject matter.

Applicants have canceled claims 1 – 40, and 43. Also, Applicants have amended claims 41, 42, 44, and 45 to put them in independent form. No new matter has been added.

The following comments are presented in the same order and with headings corresponding to those set forth in the Office Action.

Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office rejected claims 1 – 4, 6 – 15, 30, and 33 – 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, alleging the same to be unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0107560 to Richter (hereafter “Richter”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,591,223 to Lock et al. (hereafter “Lock”).

Without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicants have canceled claims 1 – 40, thereby mooted the rejections. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of claims 1 – 40 in any continuing applications.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the indication by the Office that claims 41, 42, 44, and 45 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended claims 41, 42, 44, and 45 to put them in independent form and in condition for allowance. No new matter has been added.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that the Amendment be entered, which Applicants believe puts the application in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and early action to that effect are solicited earnestly.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 11, 2008

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